SHADOW STRIKES
11
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THE Shadow STRIKES!
OUT OF THE PAST
by GERARD JONES · RON WAGNER
and STAN DRAKE

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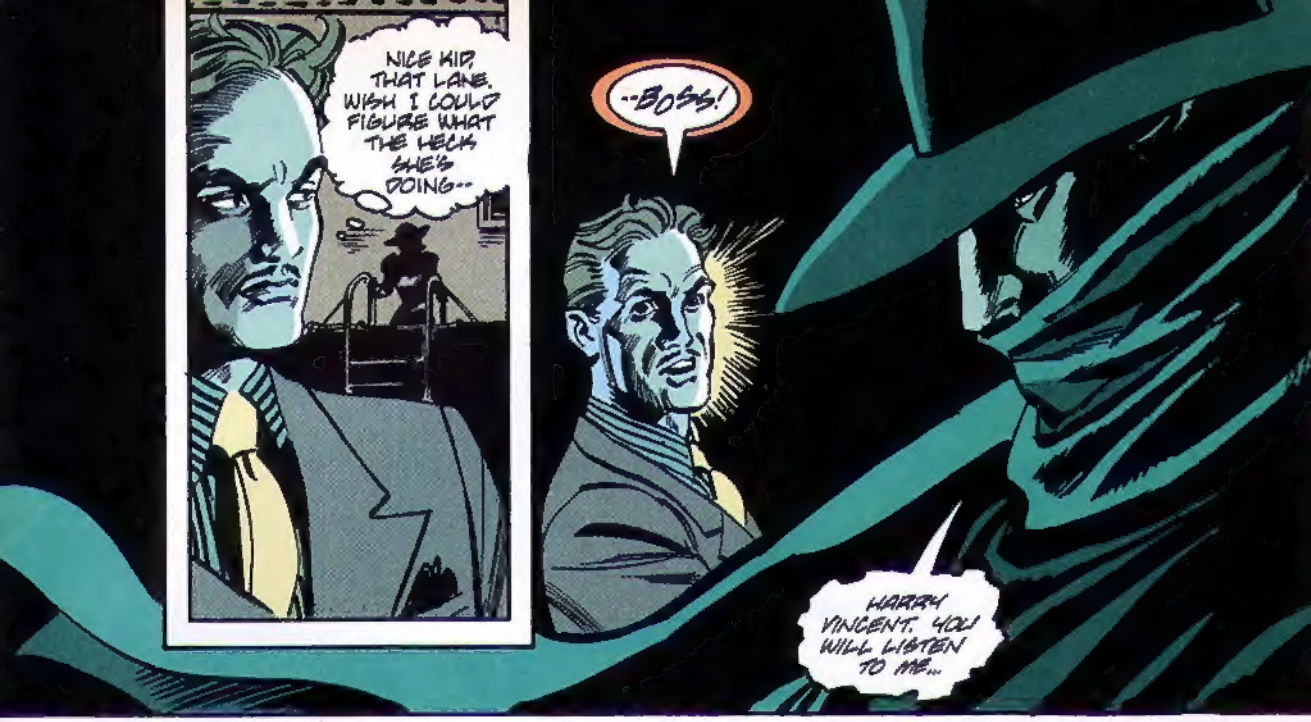
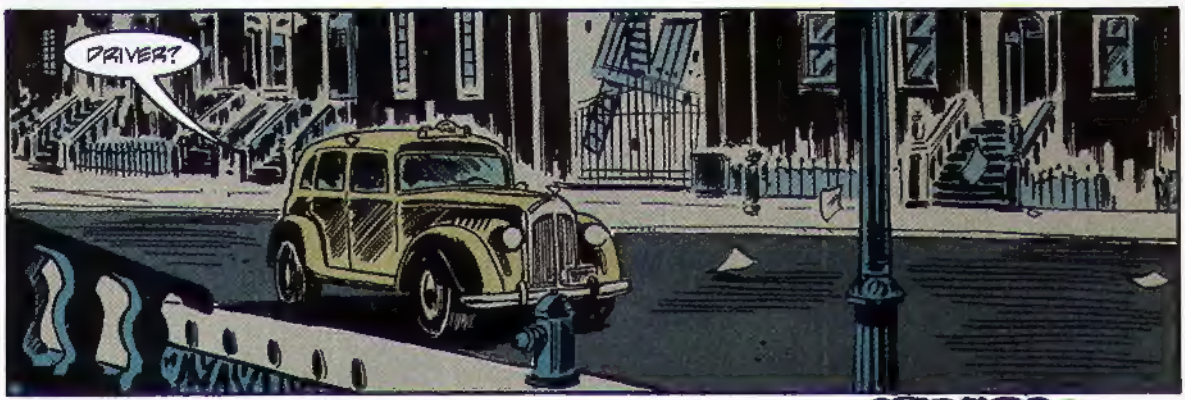
WELL, YOU GET TO SAY GOOD-BYE TO ME, HARRY. NOT WITHOUT RELIEF, I'M SURE.
I KNOW I CAN'T WAIT TO SOAK IN A TUB AND THEN GO TO SLEEP IN MY VERY OWN BED.
YOU'VE EARNED IT, KEED.
SAH... MARGO.
I'VE GOT THESE TICKETS TO "YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU" TOMORROW NIGHT. AND THE GIRL I WAS GOING TO TAKE... WELL...
...SHE EXPRESSED A STRONG INTEREST IN MY COMPLETE DISAPPEAR-ANCE.
WHEN I TOLD HER ABOUT MY "BUSINESS TRIP" TO SAN FRANCISLO SHE SCREAMED, "I KNOW WHAT YOUR 'BUSINESS TRIPS' ARE ALL ABOUT!"
AND SHE DIDN'T MEAN THAT SHE KNEW YOU WERE FOILING THE PLOT OF A MONGOLIAN WARLORD.
ANYWAY, I HATE TO WASTE A TICKET. I CAN CALL FOR YOU ABOUT SIX. TAKE YOU TO DINNER IF YOU CAN STOMACH CORNED BEEF.
MISTER VINCENT, THERE'VE BEEN TIMES IN MY LIFE WHEN I'D HAVE KILLED FOR A CORNED BEEF SANDWICH.
TOMORROW AT SIX!
2

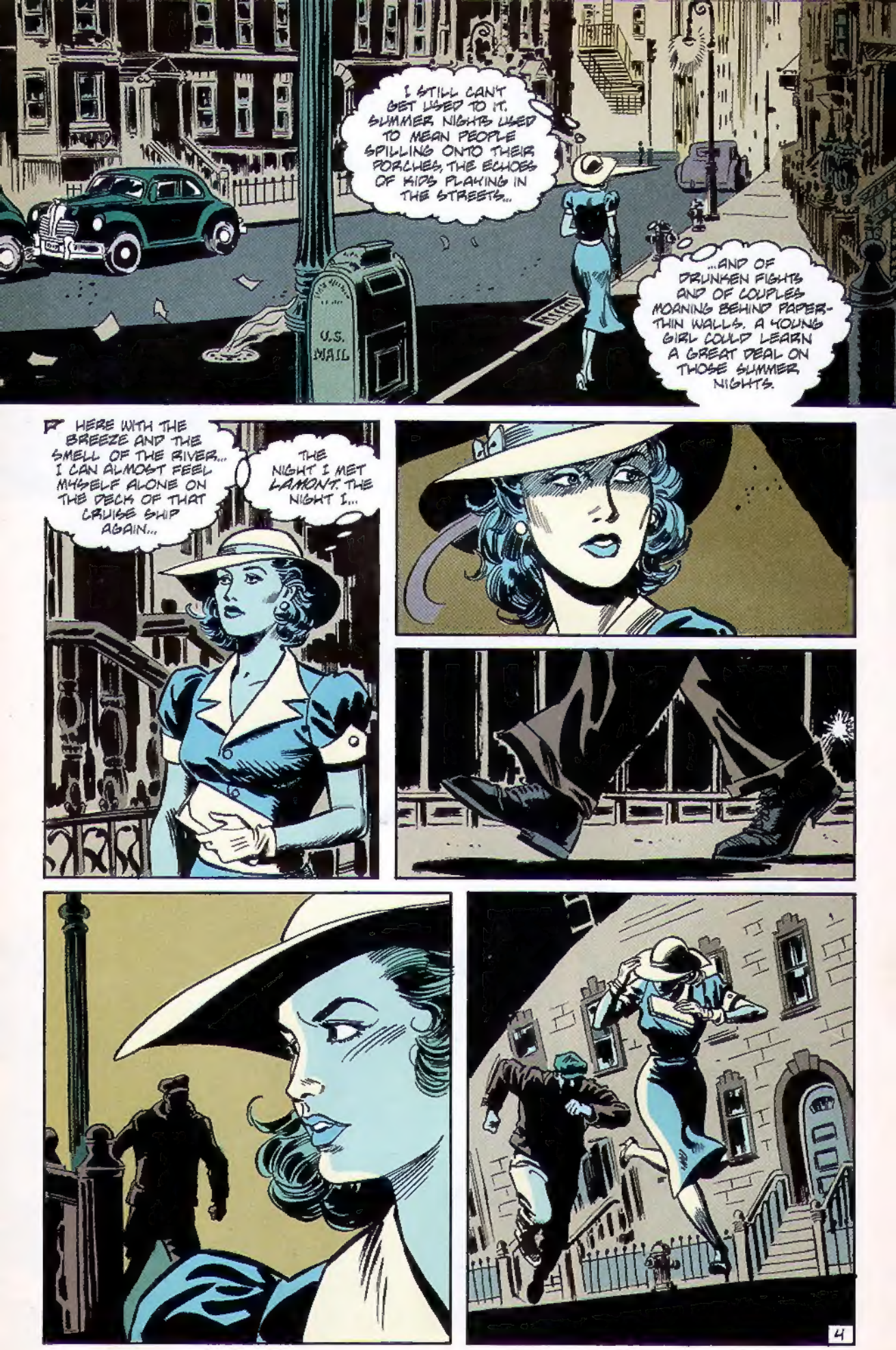

NICE KID, THAT LANE. WISH I COULD FIGURE WHAT THE HECK SHE'S DOING--
--BOSS!
HARRY VINCENT, YOU WILL LISTEN TO ME...


DRIVER?

YOU CAN LET ME OUT HERE. I FEEL LIKE WALKING.
YOU SURE, LADY? I MEAN, EVEN IN THE EAST EIGHTIES, A LADY LIKE YOU WALKIN' ALONE, SOMETHIN' COULD--
DON'T WORRY...

I'VE SPENT PLENTY OF TIME WALKING ALONE.

I LIKE THESE LATE SUMMER NIGHTS, WHEN THE WIND PICKS UP OFF THE RIVER AND THE HEAT BREAKS AS IF A HOT TOWEL HAD JUST BEEN LIFTED FROM MY FACE.
BUT IT'S SO QUIET...
3


I STILL CAN'T GET USED TO IT. SUMMER NIGHTS USED TO MEAN PEOPLE SPILLING ONTO THEIR PORCHES, THE ECHOES OF KIDS PLAYING IN THE STREETS...
...AND OF DRUNKEN FIGHTS AND OF COUPLES MOANING BEHIND PAPER-THIN WALLS. A YOUNG GIRL COULD LEARN A GREAT DEAL ON THOSE SUMMER NIGHTS.
U.S. MAIL
HERE WITH THE BREEZE AND THE SMELL OF THE RIVER... I CAN ALMOST FEEL MYSELF ALONE ON THE DECK OF THAT CRUISE SHIP AGAIN...
THE NIGHT I MET LAMONT. THE NIGHT I...
4

Unkh
YOU KNEW IT WOULD CATCH UP TO YOU.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE--
YOU KNOW IT'S NOT YOURS!

OUT OF THE PAST

GERARD JONES — WRITER
RON WAGNER — PENCIL ARTIST
STAN DRAKE
WITH FRANK SPRINGER-INK ARTISTS
WILLIE SCHUBERT—LETTERER
ANTHONY TOLLIN—COLORIST
BRIAN AUGUSTYN-EDITOR

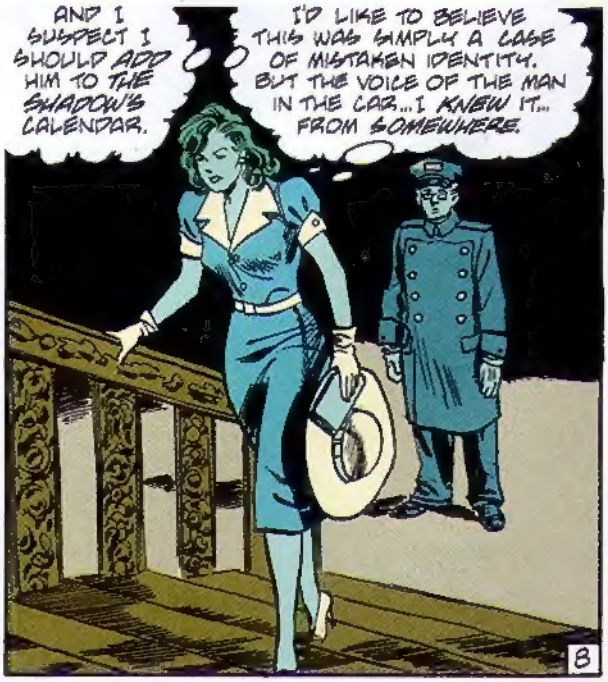
IT WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD TO YELL FOR HELP.
YEEAGH!
Ugh!
IT WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD EITHER, SWEETIE.
I'M TELLING YOU...
...YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS. WE'RE GOING TO GET IT BACK!

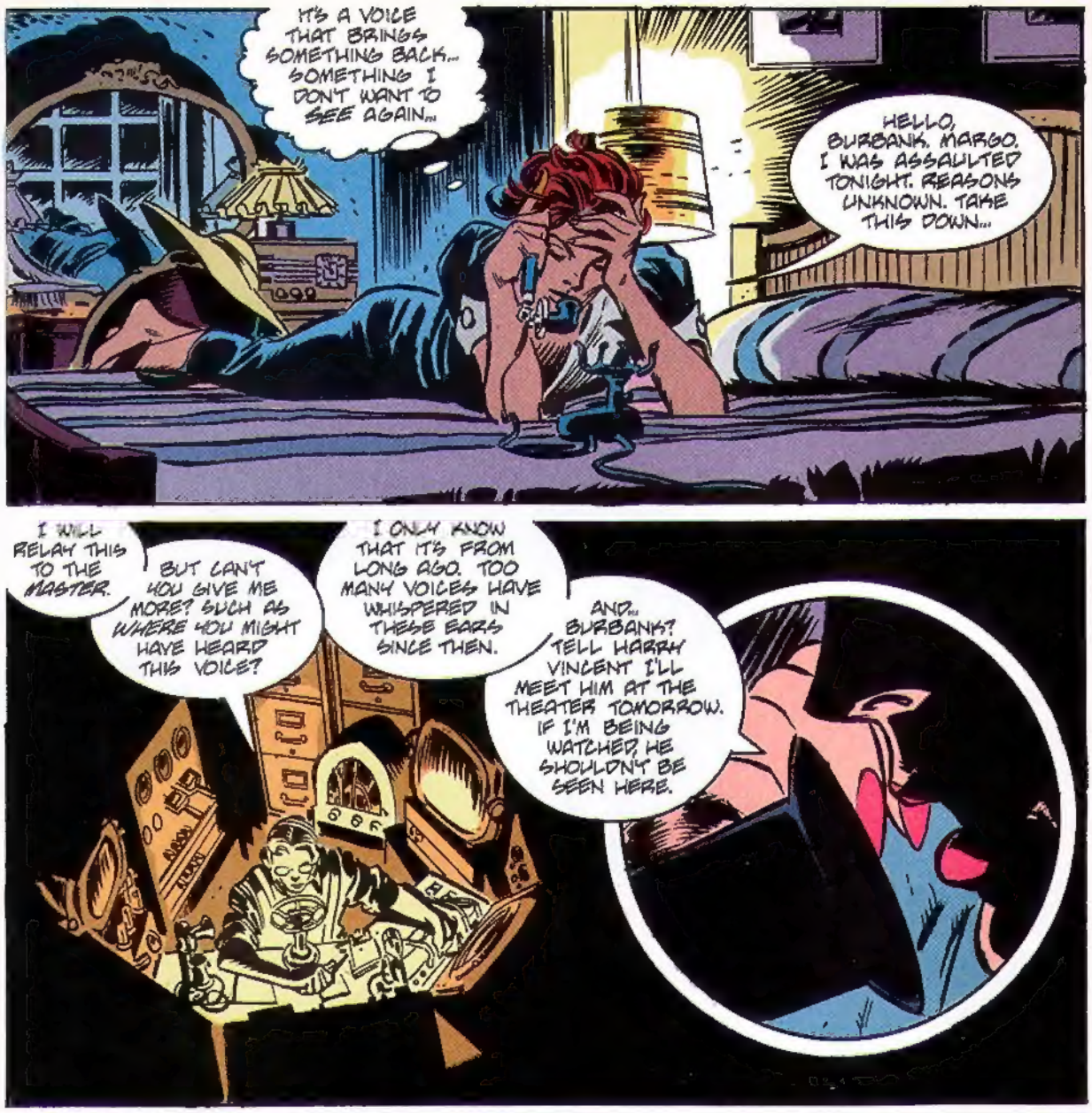
GET IN.
BUT I'M--
GET IN!

PEOPLE HAVE HEARD YOU!

SKREEEEE
MISS? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MISS?

SHOULD I CALL THE POLICE?
NO, NO, PLEASE. MY DATE GOT A LITTLE FRESH...
...I'LL JUST HAVE TO WRITE HIM OUT OF MY SOCIAL CALENDAR.

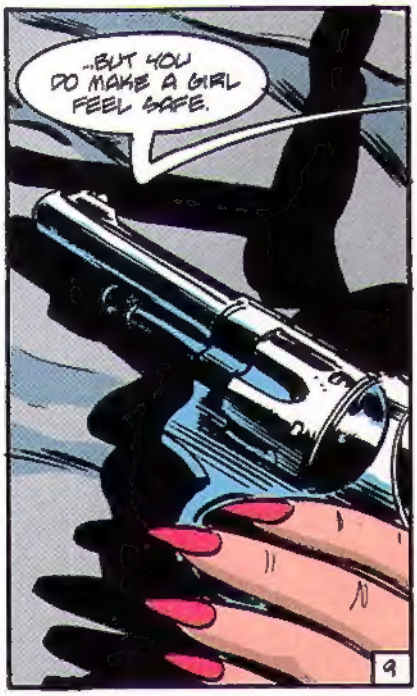

AND I SUSPECT I SHOULD ADD HIM TO THE SHADOW'S CALENDAR.
I'D LIKE TO BELIEVE THIS WAS SIMPLY A CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY. BUT THE VOICE OF THE MAN IN THE CAR...I KNEW IT... FROM SOMEWHERE.
8


IT'S A VOICE THAT BRINGS SOMETHING BACK... SOMETHING I DON'T WANT TO SEE AGAIN...
HELLO, BURBANK. MARGO. I WAS ASSAULTED TONIGHT. REASONS UNKNOWN. TAKE THIS DOWN...

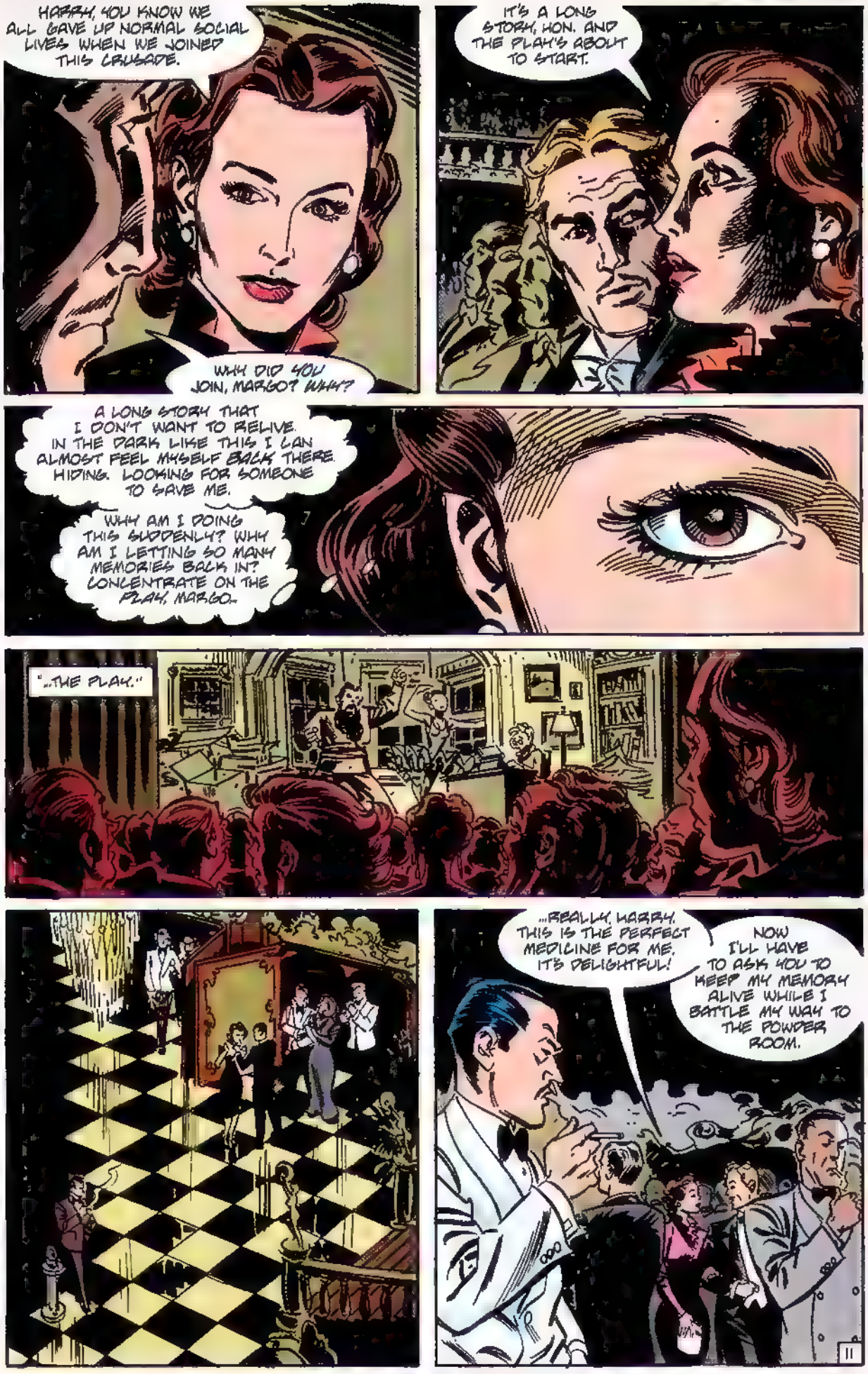
I WILL RELAY THIS TO THE MASTER.
BUT CAN'T YOU GIVE ME MORE? SUCH AS WHERE YOU MIGHT HAVE HEARD THIS VOICE?
I ONLY KNOW THAT IT'S FROM LONG AGO. TOO MANY VOICES HAVE WHISPERED IN THESE EARS SINCE THEN.
AND... BURBANK? TELL HARRY VINCENT I'LL MEET HIM AT THE THEATER TOMORROW. IF I'M BEING WATCHED, HE SHOULDN'T BE SEEN HERE.

WELL...

...I SUPPOSE YOU'RE NOT A BAD GUY TO SLEEP WITH.
YOU'RE COLD AND HARD, AND YOU'VE GOT AN EXPLOSIVE TEMPER...


...BUT YOU DO MAKE A GIRL FEEL SAFE.

RKO
E. POWELL -
BORN TO DAN
ANT
ERSE
"YOU CAN
IT WITH YOU
ASSOCI
of AMERICA
LOEW'S
DRUGS
THANKS FOR THE PICK-UP, SHREVVY.
CHIEF'S ORDERS MISS LANE. I'LL BE HERE TO GETCHA' WHEN YA COME OUT, TOO.
I'M SURE HARRY WILL BE ECSTATIC TO HEAR THAT.
AH, HERE'S MY BEAU NOW. AND LOOKING LIKE THE SPIFFIEST SALESMAN IN PEORIA.
FOR GOD'S SAKE, MARGO, DON'T BE THE GAY BUTTERFLY WITH ME!
THAT ANIMAL HURT YOU. I CAN SEE IT... YOUR NECK...
I'M AFRAID SOME THINGS EVEN REVLON CAN'T CONCEAL.
PLEASE, HARRY. JUST TAKE ME IN. I DON'T WANT TO THINK ABOUT IT NOW.
MARGO.. LISTEN..
THE BOSS TALKED TO ME. HE DOESN'T WANT US SEEING EACH OTHER--SOCIALLY. HE SAYS IT COULD HURT OPERATIONS.
HE'S RIGHT.
BUT IF A GUY AND A GIRL HAVE THINGS IN COMMON, I DON'T SEE WHAT--
10


HARRY, YOU KNOW WE ALL GAVE UP NORMAL SOCIAL LIVES WHEN WE JOINED THIS CRUSADE.
WHY DID YOU JOIN, MARGO? WHY?
IT'S A LONG STORY, HON. AND THE PLAY'S ABOUT TO START.
A LONG STORY THAT I DON'T WANT TO RELIVE. IN THE DARK LIKE THIS I CAN ALMOST FEEL MYSELF BACK THERE. HIDING. LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO SAVE ME.
WHY AM I DOING THIS SUDDENLY? WHY AM I LETTING SO MANY MEMORIES BACK IN? CONCENTRATE ON THE PLAY, MARGO..
"..THE PLAY."
..REALLY, HARRY. THIS IS THE PERFECT MEDICINE FOR ME. IT'S DELIGHTFUL!
NOW I'LL HAVE TO ASK YOU TO KEEP MY MEMORY ALIVE WHILE I BATTLE MY WAY TO THE POWDER ROOM.
11

MISS LANE.
THAT IS WHAT YOU'RE CALLING YOURSELF NOW, ISN'T IT, MARGARET?
IT WAS DIFFICULT TO TRACK YOU DOWN... BUT A MAN CAN MAKE GREAT EFFORTS WHEN HE HAS NOTHING ELSE LEFT TO LIVE FOR.
COLE... WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU?
YOU HANDLED YOURSELF WELL WITH MY PARTNER LAST NIGHT. BUT HE'S A TOUGH FELLOW. HE'LL BE BACK. SPENDING FOUR YEARS IN LEAVENWORTH, A CHAP MEETS PLENTY OF HIS TYPE.
A PROMISE OF MONEY IS MORE THAN ENOUGH TO KEEP HIM DEDICATED.
WHAT IS THIS ABOUT? MONEY, COLE?
WHAT ARE WE DOING, MARGARET? PLAYING A SCENE FROM A BROADWAY BOMB? DICK'S MONEY, DEAR. YOU GOT AWAY WITH IT.
BUT I DESERVE IT.
I'LL COME CALLING AGAIN, WHEN YOU LEAST EXPECT IT. AND THEN YOU'LL GIVE ME MY SHARE.
MARGO!
HARRY, BE A DEAR, DO ME TWO FAVORS. CALL THE CHIEF...
...AND BUY ME A VERY STRONG DRINK.
12

YOU SHOULD HAVE FOLLOWED HIM. MOE SHREVNITZ WAS ON WATCH FOR JUST SUCH A PURPOSE.
I KNOW. I WAS TOO STUNNED... I COULDN'T THINK, COULDN'T EVEN MOVE.
IT'S TRUE, BOSS, I'VE NEVER SEEN MARGO LIKE THAT. WHATEVER THIS IS ALL ABOUT--
ENOUGH
COLE CHARLES, THE PARTNER, THEN IN THE BROKERAGE OF EVANS AND CHARLES.
HEH.
AND THE MONEY HE BELIEVES YOU TO HAVE...A PART OF THE ILLICIT GAINS WHICH PUT HIM IN PRISON, NO DOUBT.
SOME MONEY WAS EMBEZZLED FROM CLIENTS JUST AS THE BROKERAGE WAS FOLDING UP. IT WAS NEVER FOUND. IT COULD NEVER BE LINKED TO COLE.
OF COURSE EVERYONE SUSPECTED THAT IT WAS TAKEN BY...BY...
...BY YOUR HUSBAND.
13

"I WAS VERY YOUNG...IN MOST WAYS. I WAS RUNNING AWAY FROM THINGS, AND FOUND MYSELF RUNNING TO CHICAGO. THAT'S WHERE I SAW *DICK EVANS*... WHERE I CAUGHT HIS EYE.

"HE WAS A COMMODITIES BROKER, YOUNG AND AMBITIOUS AND BLESSED WITH DARING. HE WANTED TO.. *KEEP* ME, AT FIRST...WHILE HE LOOKED FOR A MORE 'ADVANTAGEOUS' WIFE.

"BUT I MADE HIM MARRY ME. I HAD *THAT* MUCH SELF-RESPECT. AND HE LOVED ME THAT MUCH.

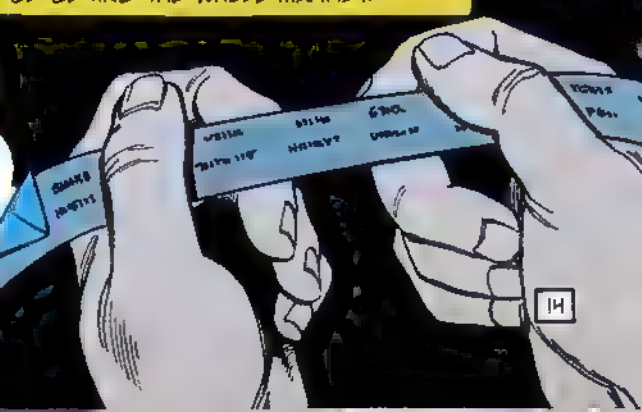
'DESPITE MARRYING A POOR GIRL, HE ROSE QUICKLY IN THE INVESTMENT WORLD I PRESSURED HIM TO RISE MORE QUICKLY STILL.

"HE AND HIS PARTNER, COLE, MADE THEIR MONEY BY WAITING FOR THE MARKET'S OCCASIONAL 'BREAKS' WHEN PRICES WOULD DROP FOR A DAY OR TWO..

"...THEN THEY'D THROW ALL THEIR CREDIT INTO HEAVY BUYING, AND SELL WHEN PRICES CRESTED AGAIN.

"I REMEMBER THE AUTUMN OF 1929. THE CRAZY BULL MARKET, AND DICK AND COLE MAKING MORE MONEY THAN I COULD IMAGINE. ON PAPER

"I REMEMBER THAT TUESDAY WHEN THE PRICES BROKE AND THEY SEEMED TO BE BUYING THE WHOLE MARKET."



I REMEMBER WEDNESDAY, WHEN THE PRICES KEPT BREAKING.

AND I REMEMBER THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24 "BLACK THURSDAY," THE PAPERS CALLED IT. WHEN THE PRICES COLLAPSED.

"DICK AND COLE'S CLIENTS ALL WANTED TO SELL. THEY ALL WANTED THEIR MONEY. BUT DICK AND COLE DIDN'T HAVE THE MONEY.

"LAWYERS CAME TO TAKE IT FROM THEM. THAT'S WHEN IT ALL CAME OUT. THE BUYING ON MARGIN, THE SELLING SHORT, THE USE OF INSIDER TIPS.

"THE SMALLER BROKERS WERE THE FIRST ONES TO BE PUNISHED FOR THEIR PART IN THE CRASH.

The Chicago Times

CHICAGO BROKERS INDICT

Cloudy ... Rain Tue...

Firm Of Evans And Charles Found To Be...

The Black Thursday crash ... to have been only the ... here. ...

"NO ONE YET WAS INVESTIGATING THE UTILITY MAGNATES OR THE PRESIDENT OF THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

"IT WOULD HAVE MADE NO DIFFERENCE. DICK WAS BROKE, IN DEBT, IN TROUBLE. AND I DID NOTHING TO HELP. I WAS PARALYZED.

"ALL I COULD THINK WAS THAT I COULDN'T GO BACK.

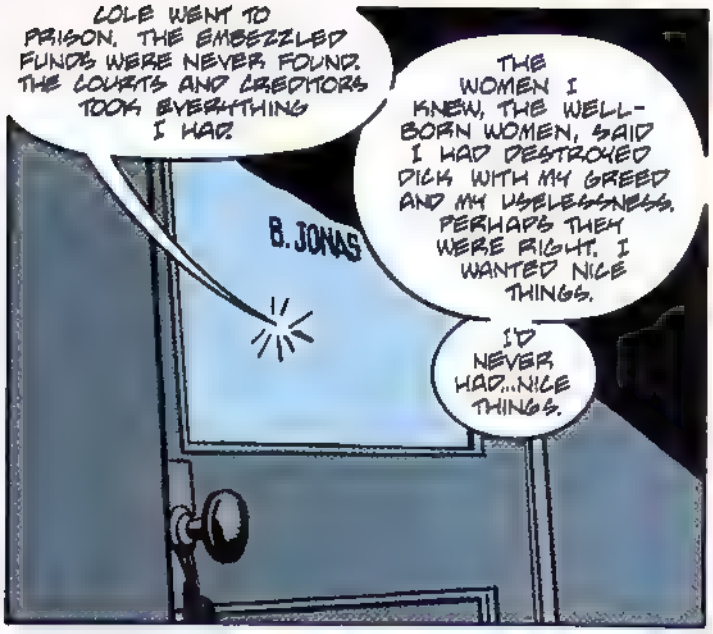
"THEN DICK WAS GONE.

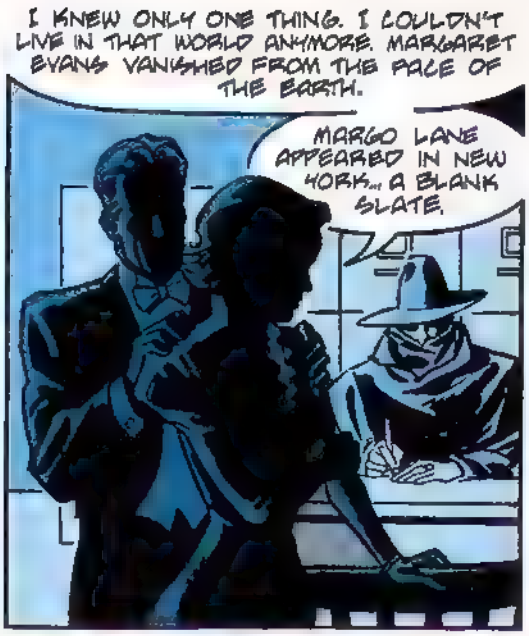
"THEY FOUND HIS EFFECTS AT THE LAKE. THEY DREDGED, BUT IT HAD BEEN TOO LONG.

"I WAS NEVER ABLE TO SAY GOOD-BYE TO HIS BODY."

...'S BODY NOT FOUND

15


LOLE WENT TO PRISON. THE EMBEZZLED FUNDS WERE NEVER FOUND. THE COURTS AND CREDITORS TOOK EVERYTHING I HAD.
B. JONAS
THE WOMEN I KNEW, THE WELL-BORN WOMEN, SAID I HAD DESTROYED DICK WITH MY GREED AND MY USELESSNESS. PERHAPS THEY WERE RIGHT. I WANTED NICE THINGS.
I'D NEVER HAD...NICE THINGS.


I KNEW ONLY ONE THING. I COULDN'T LIVE IN THAT WORLD ANYMORE. MARGARET EVANS VANISHED FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH.
MARGO LANE APPEARED IN NEW YORK... A BLANK SLATE.

MARGO, WHAT WERE YOU RUNNING AWAY FROM WHEN YOU RAN TO CHICAGO?
NO, HARRY.
I CAN NEVER TELL YOU THAT.

IT IS OF NO IMPORTANCE TO YOU, AGENT VINCENT.
I WILL TELL YOU WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW...IF I INVOLVE YOU IN THIS CASE.
IF--?!

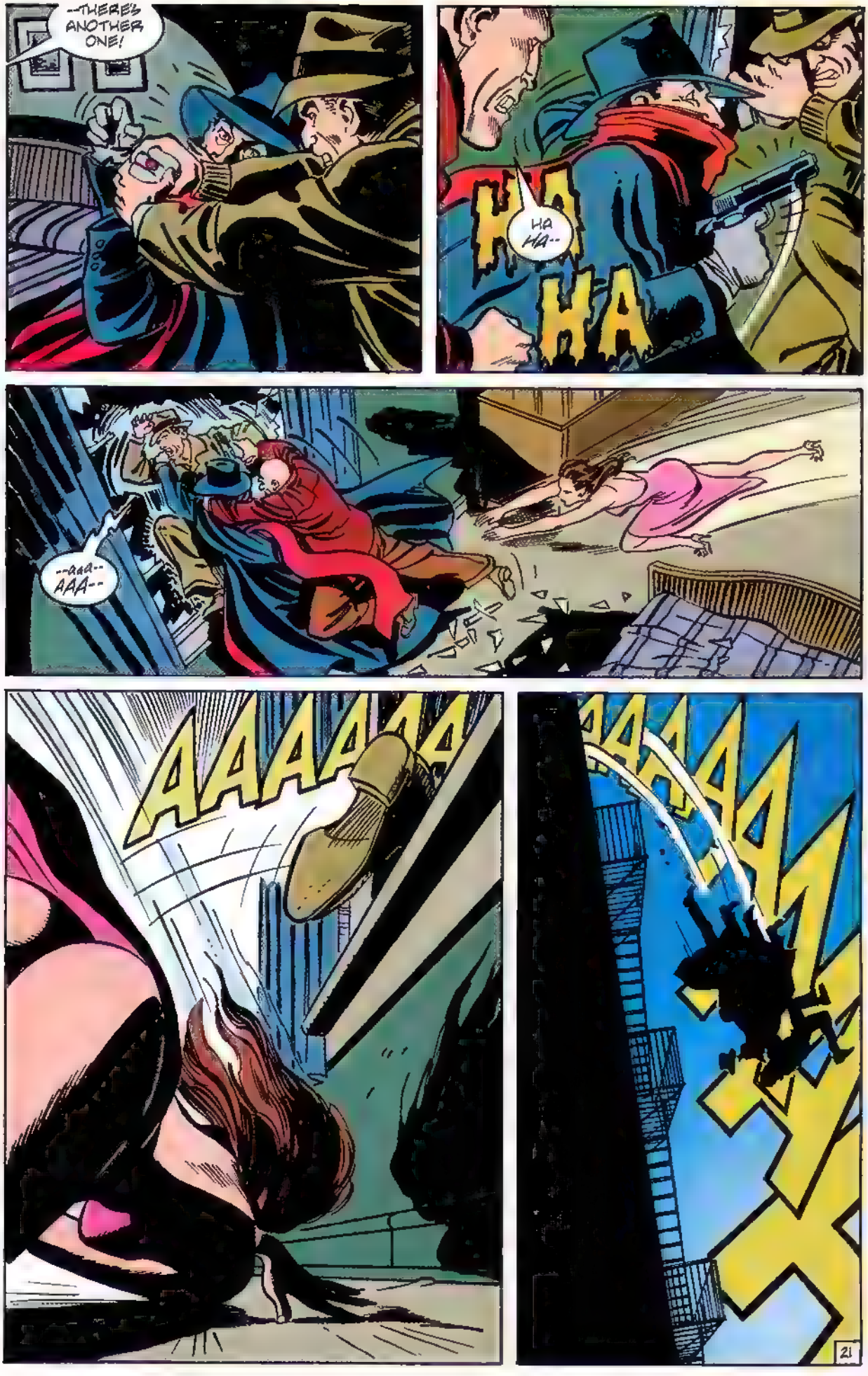
IF.
THE SHADOW PROTECTS HIS AGENTS. OTHER AGENTS DO NOT.

WELL. I GUESS I'LL SEE YOU, MARGO... SOMETIME.
BE CAREFUL, HON.
YOU WERE TOUGH ON HIM.
THE LIFE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF ONE OF MY AGENTS IS IN JEOPARDY. PERHAPS I SHOULD BE "TOUGHER" ON YOU AS WELL.
I KNOW. I'M...RATTLED. I'M SORRY.
BUT WHEN SOMEONE COMES OUT OF YOUR PAST, REMINDING YOU OF SOMEONE YOU LOVED, SOMEONE WHO DIED...
YOU'VE KNOWN THAT FEELING, HAVEN'T YOU? WHEN YOU SAW ANASTASIA?
I KILLED ANASTASIA.

REMEMBER THAT IT'S THERE IF YOU NEED IT.
FROM THE BEAUTIFUL MANHATTAN ROOM OF THE HOTEL PENNSYLVANIA..
BUT TRY NOT TO NEED IT. THE REPUTATION OF LOVELY SOCIALITE MARGO LANE CAN'T BE ENHANCED BY HER GUNNING DOWN A FORMER CONVICT IN HER APARTMENT.
...WE BRING YOU THE ROMANTIC SOUNDS OF HAL KEMP AND HIS ORCHESTRA.
BE CALM, DEAR. NO MATTER HOW LONG IT TAKES. NO MATTER WHAT YOUR IMAGINATION MAY...
SKINNAY ENNIS GETS THE MUSIC UNDER WAY TONIGHT.
...WITH HIS SWEET RENDITION OF...
8

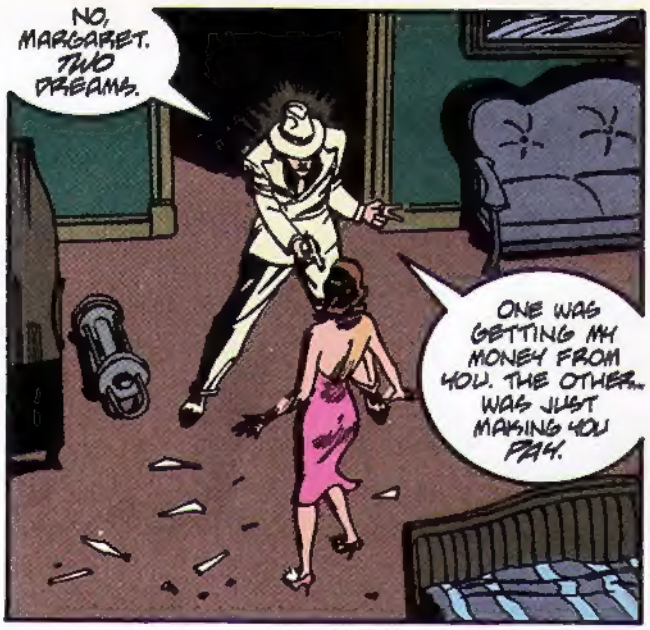
SKIN DEEP
...'GOT A DATE WITH AN ANGEL."
WE TOLD YOU WE'D GET IT.
THEN YOU SPOKE TOO SOON.
AAAAA!

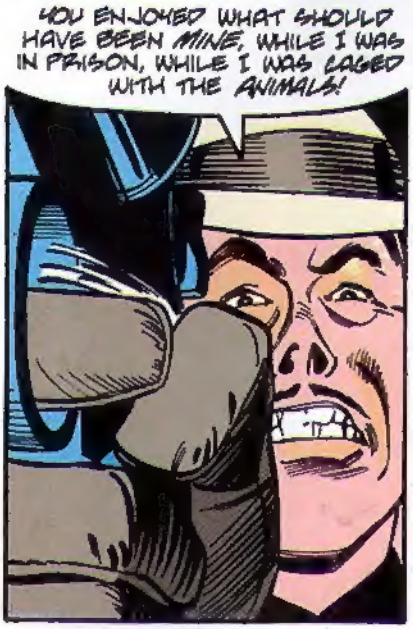
YOU CAN END THIS QUICKLY--
--BUT NOT LIKE THAT.
I WILL ASK YOU WHERE COLE CHARLES IS. YOU WILL ANSWER ME OF YOUR OWN FREE WILL...
...OR YOU WILL ANSWER UNDER THE SPELL OF MY GIRASOL RING.
WHICH WILL IT BE?
I'LL.. I'LL TELL YOU..
CHIEF..
20


--THERE'S ANOTHER ONE!
HA
HA--
HA
--aaa--
AAA--
AAAAAA
AAAAAA

CHIEF?
"CHIEF" CAN'T HELP YOU NOW, MARGARET.
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT HAVE A BOYFRIEND HERE TO WATCH YOU. IT WAS EASY TO COME UP WITH ANOTHER LEAVENWORTH ACQUAINTANCE AND LOCK-PICKING IS A LITTLE SKILL I'VE PICKED UP BY MYSELF.
I WON'T NEED SKILLS LIKE THAT ANYMORE, WILL I, MARGARET? BECAUSE YOU'RE GOING TO PAY ME WHAT'S MINE.
COLE... THERE IS NO MONEY. IF DICK STOLE IT, I DON'T KNOW WHAT...
IF DICK STOLE IT? OF COURSE HE DID. HE AND I PLANNED IT. ENOUGH TO BUY OUR FREEDOM.
BUT DICK TOOK IT ALL. THEN HE KILLED HIMSELF. OR SOMEONE HELPED HIM KILL HIMSELF.
I WENT TO PRISON AND WHO GOT THE MONEY?
NOT ME, COLE. NOT ME.
WRITE ME A CHECK, MARGARET. FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS.
I DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF MONEY.
OH, REALLY? AND LIVING IN A LOVELY PLACE LIKE THIS?
I HAVE SOMEONE... PAYING THE BILLS.
AH-HAH. COULDN'T PUSH THIS ONE INTO MARRYING YOU, EH? WELL, THEN, WRITE ME A PROMISSORY NOTE. I'LL TAKE IT TO HIM AND--

IT WON'T WORK LOLE. DON'T YOU SEE? THE MONEY'S GONE. I DON'T KNOW WHERE. BUT YOU'VE BEEN NURSING A DREAM ALL THIS TIME.


NO, MARGARET. TWO DREAMS.
ONE WAS GETTING MY MONEY FROM YOU. THE OTHER... WAS JUST MAKING YOU PAY.


YOU ENJOYED WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN MINE, WHILE I WAS IN PRISON, WHILE I WAS CAGED WITH THE ANIMALS!

YOU HAVE JEWELS AND FURS, DON'T YOU, MARGARET? I CAN TAKE THOSE AFTER I'VE--
LOLE-- NO!

BAM
Uprk

H-HARRY?

NO, MAGGIE. NOT HARRY...
DICK!
I HEARD COLE HAD BEEN PAROLED. I KNEW WHAT HE WOULD BE THINKING. I KNEW ALL TOO WELL.
I THOUGHT I COULD BE INDIFFERENT. BUT I SAW YOU IN MY DREAMS...TERRORIZED BY HIM. I TRACKED HIM AS HE TRACKED YOU.
BUT DICK... IN GOD'S NAME, HOW...
I COULDN'T FACE YOU, MAGGIE, NOT AFTER WHAT HAD HAPPENED. I COULDN'T STAND A LIFE CHAINED TO COLE BY MONEY AND GUILT.
SO I EMBEZZLED ALL THAT MONEY MYSELF AND FAKED MY SUICIDE... AND DOUBLE-CROSSED MY PARTNER.
A PRETTY PICTURE, ISN'T IT? AND PEOPLE TOLD ME I WAS MARRYING BENEATH MYSELF WHEN I PICKED YOU.
DICK, I...
DON'T. IF YOU TOUCHED ME I THINK I'D FALL TO PIECES. I HAVE TO STAY TOGETHER, LONG ENOUGH TO GET BACK OUT OF THIS COUNTRY.
WHERE DO YOU LIVE? WHERE ARE YOU HIDING?
FAR AWAY. CALL IT THE OTHER WORLD. JUST CALL ME A GHOST, DRIFTING THROUGH THE WALLS. UNTOUCHABLE.
24

BYE, MAGGIE. DON'T THINK TOO BADLY OF ME.
I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE... DOING WELL.
MARGO?
I FIGURED I'D COME BY TO CHECK ON YOU. I SAW THE BOSS DOWN BELOW, BUT HE WAS BUSY MOPPING UP A COUPLE OF PLUG-UGLIES.
YOU OKAY, KEED?
IT'S...TRUE, WHAT THEY SAY, ISN'T IT, HARRY? ABOUT HOW THE ONLY THING YOU CAN NEVER REALLY ESCAPE...
...IS YOUR PAST.
END